

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action dated June 1, 2005 and is being submitted simultaneously with a Request for Continued Examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11, 13-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,396,842 to Aggarwal et al. ("Aggarwal") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,842 to Rochberger ("Rochberger"). Claims 5 and 8-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,343,320 to Fairchild et al. ("Fairchild") in view of Rochberger.

In response to the §103 rejection, applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8 and 17. Claims 1-20 remain under consideration.

In order for an invention to be obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), there must be some suggestion to combine or modify cited prior art references in a manner which would show or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. Applicants have amended claims 1, 5, 8 and 17 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which the inventors consider the invention. For the following reasons, neither Aggarwal in view of Rochberger nor Fairchild in view of Rochberger teaches all elements of claims 1, 5, 8 and 17.

Independent claims 1, 5, 8 and 17 are directed to an on-line method of classifying IP addresses into related clusters within a distributed information network. Each of those claims has been amended to include elements associated with generating "a unified prefix/netmask table" from a plurality of network routing table prefix/netmask entries, where the unified prefix/netmask entries comprise a plurality of IP addresses, and then to process or classify those IP addresses according to a radix encoded trie classification process.

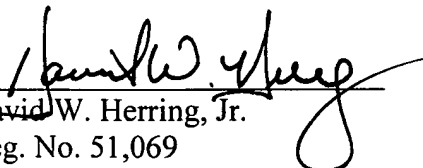
Neither Aggarwal, Fairchild nor Rochberger teach or suggest receiving or extracting "a unified prefix/netmask table from a plurality of network routing table prefix/netmask entries" and then processing or classifying those IP addresses according to a radix encoded trie classification process in order to cluster network clients. Accordingly, neither Aggarwal nor Rochberger, alone or in combination, teach all

elements of claims 1, 5, 8 or 17. Similarly, Fairchild does not, either alone or in combination with Rochberger, teach all elements of 5, 8 or 17. Therefore, claims 1, 5, 8 and 17 are not obvious over any of the cited references, either alone or in combination and, as a result, those claims are allowable. It follows, that claims 2-4, 6-7, 9-16 and 18-20 are dependent upon an allowable independent claim and that those claims are, therefore, also allowable.

No new matter has been introduced as a result of the foregoing amendments. Unified routing tables are described in the present application at least beginning on page 9, line 14. As described at that portion of the specification, to create a unified routing table, a number of prefix/netmask entries are extracted from a number of routing tables or routing table snapshots. The prefix/netmask entries from the various tables are unified into a single, standardized format and those entries are then merged into a single unified table to aid in clustering together clients in the network.

For the reasons discussed above, the cited art does not teach all elements of the claims as currently pending. As a result, all pending claims are allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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